

A data transmission system (10) is provided for transmitting a data signal between a server (12, 14, 16, 18) and a communications terminal (20, 22) over a transmission link having a variable bandwidth. The data signal is a scalable compressed multimedia clip comprising a sequence of images. Each image has a base layer and a number of enhancement layers. To cope with variability in the bandwidth, the sequence is re-ordered so that the base layers have greater safety times than the enhancement layers. This allows all of the base layers to arrive in time to be played at the expense of the enhancement layers.

(Figure 9)